

## **APPENDIX B**

### **F2 ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH STANDARDS ALLEGATIONS UNDER THE LOCALISM ACT 2011**

#### **1. Context**

These “Arrangements” are made in accordance with section 28 (6) and (7) of the Localism Act 2011. They set out how to make a complaint that an elected or co-opted member of this Council or of a parish council within its area has failed to comply with the relevant authority’s Code of Conduct. They also set out how the Council will deal with any complaints about such failures.

#### **2. The Code of Conduct**

Central Bedfordshire Council has adopted a Code of Conduct for Members, and this Code is available for inspection on the Council’s website or on request from the Monitoring Officer at Priory House, Chicksands.

Each town and parish council in the area is also required to adopt a Code of Conduct. Copies of these Codes are available on the relevant council’s website or on request from the town or parish clerk.

#### **3. The Independent Person**

The Council is required to appoint at least one Independent Person. The Council must consult an independent person and take his/her views into account before making a decision on a complaint that it has investigated.

The Independent Person may be consulted by the Council at various stages in the complaints process and can also be consulted by a Member who is the subject of a complaint.

#### **4. Making a complaint**

A complaint that a member of Central Bedfordshire Council or of a town or parish council in the District has failed to observe the Council’s Code of conduct should be submitted to:

The Monitoring Officer  
Central Bedfordshire Council  
Priory House  
Monks Walk  
Chicksands  
Shefford  
Bedfordshire  
SG17 5TQ

The Monitoring Officer is a senior officer of the authority who has statutory responsibility for maintaining the register of Members' interests and who is responsible for administering the arrangements for complaints about Member misconduct.

In order to ensure that the Monitoring Officer has all the information needed to process complaints, they should be submitted using the model complaint form which also explains the process and the relevant referral criteria at initial assessment. The complaint form can be downloaded from the Council's website. A copy of the form is also available on request from the Monitoring Officer.

Complainants must provide their name, postal address and, where possible, their email address. The Council will not normally investigate an anonymous complaint, unless there is a clear public interest in doing so.

The Monitoring Officer will acknowledge receipt of the complaint and will notify the Member against whom the complaint is directed by providing a copy of the complaint to them within 5 working days of receiving it, and will keep both the complainant and the Member informed about the progress of the complaint.

### **[Complaints against Central Bedfordshire Council Members](#)**

[At the conclusion of a complaint against a Central Bedfordshire Council member a notice detailing the decision will be placed on the relevant page on the Council's website.](#)